

Act which comes into your official possession. This being true, and the prime object to be accomplished by this Section being to provide a means for certifying authentic copies of public records, it is our opinion that you may compare the third-reader copy presented by the applicant for certification against the original Act and, if it is an exact copy thereof, you may certify directly to the applicant's copy of such third-reader.

Very truly yours,

C. FERDINAND SYBERT

Attorney General

ROBERT C. MURPHY

Spec. Asst. Attorney General

CFS:MH
RCM

ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The members of the Hall of Records Commission will recall that at the session of the General Assembly held in 1958 a bill was introduced to transfer responsibility for the *Maryland Manual* from the office of the Secretary of State to the Hall of Records Commission. This bill, as I reported to you last year, failed on third reading in the House of Delegates after having passed the Senate. The members of the Commission are aware that the *Manual* has been prepared by the Hall of Records staff since 1947 by request of the Governor, but that the time for its appearance had never been fixed and there was always so much uncertainty about the wishes of succeeding Secretaries of State that we found it difficult to plan our program from year to year. We wished above all to have this certainty. And we wanted also to be able to deal directly with the printer, which would be possible only if the funds for the *Manual* were in our budget. With the cooperation of the present Secretary of State, the Honorable Thomas B. Finan, a bill satisfactory to both agencies was prepared and subsequently passed by the General Assembly of 1959. It will be noted that the Secretary of State retains the right to "issue" the *Manual*, otherwise it is now our responsibility. The Act follows:

CHAPTER 506

(House Bill 822)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 104 of Article 41 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Governor—Executive and Administrative Departments", sub-title "State Manual", amending the laws concerning the compilation, editing and printing of the State Manual.